

PUBLIC

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Fear of deportation, detention and ill-treatment

26 February 2003

JORDAN

Ibrahim Hamdi 'Atia MURSI (m), aged 32

Ibrahim Hamdi 'Atia Mursi is currently being detained in Jordan and faces imminent deportation to Egypt. He is not known to have had any problem with the Egyptian authorities in the past. However, Amnesty International is concerned that if he is deported to Egypt, in the current political climate, he may be considered as a potential security threat by the Egyptian authorities and may be at risk of detention and ill-treatment.

Ibrahim Hamdi 'Atia Mursi, a trader, was arrested by the General Intelligence Department (GID) on 20 February 2003 and taken to their head quarters in the capital Amman. From there he was taken to the immigration authorities where he has been detained ever since. The GID have denied him bail.

Although Ibrahim Hamdi 'Atia Mursi has not been charged with any offence he has reportedly been interrogated about his activities in establishing a new Amnesty International group in Jordan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ibrahim Hamdi 'Atia Mursi is an Egyptian citizen, who has been resident in Jordan for seven years and is married to a Palestinian Amnesty International member.

An Amnesty International group has existed in Jordan for a number of years and to date Amnesty International members have been able to operate freely in the country. However, with the threat of war in neighbouring Iraq, the current political climate is tense. The authorities in the region are increasingly sensitive to civil activities and more inclined to view such activities with suspicion and to consider them as a threat. Such attitudes can be harsher when those involved are foreign nationals and when the activities concern human rights, since the governments of the region fear criticism of their human rights records.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, Arabic or your own language:

- calling for Ibrahim Hamdi 'Atia Mursi not to be deported as this may put him at risk of detention and ill-treatment;
- calling for the immediate release of Ibrahim Hamdi 'Atia Mursi unless he is to be charged with a recognisably criminal offence;
- if he is to be charged, calling for him to be promptly tried in full accordance with international standards for a fair trial.

APPEALS TO:

General Saad Khayr
Head of General Intelligence Department
Amman
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Telegram: General Saad Khayr, Head of General Intelligence Department, Amman, Jordan

Fax: + 962 6 586 4111

Salutation: Dear General

Quftan al-Majali
Minister of Interior

Ministry of Interior
PO Box 100
Amman
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Amman, Jordan
Fax: + 962 6 560 6908
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Dr Marwan al-Mu=ashir
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PO Box 35217
Amman
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Fax: + 962 6 464 8825 (If you experience difficulties, please persist as Jordan is currently experiencing problems)

and to diplomatic representatives of Jordan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 April 2003.